the State Government of Gujarat, a federal district judge from New York and three others visited Gujarat on tourist visas issued by the Indian Embassy in USA. It is reported that the above persons attended a seminar organized by 'Jan Sangharsh Manch' and 'Aman Samuday', two Non Governmental Oganizations, in Ahmedabad on 22.1.2005. The seminar discussed, among other things, formation of an International association to save the people who have suffered due to alleged violation of human rights due to the misuse of various laws, in the light of enforcement of Patriot Act in USA and Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA) in Gujarat, India to tackle militancy and terrorism. It has also been reported that the above persons met the family members of some of the accused in POTA cases after the meeting on the same day.

(c) The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has not received any request in this regard.

Setting up of Disaster Management Authority

1615. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the nature and quantum of relief/rehabilitation measures provided by Government to Tsunami victims in the various States/State-wise;

(b) whether any Central monitoring agency has been set up by Government to ensure receipt of relief supplies by the victims;

(c) whether it is a fact that a suggestion has been made by the overseas Indians that their representative should be included in the agency to monitor utilisation of aid received from overseas; and

(d) the details of legislation to set up the Disaster Management Authority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) The Government of India have approved a special package of Rs. 3644.05 crore named as "Rajiv Gandhi Rehabilitation Package for Tsunami affected areas" to provide assistance for immediate relief and response, revival of fishery and agriculture sectors, immediate construction of temporary (intermediate) shelters and repair/ restoration of infrastructure. The package for Tamil Nadu is Rs. 2347.19 crore, Andhra Pradesh-Rs. 70.00 crore, Kerala-Rs. 249.36 crore, Pondicherry-Rs. 155.62 crore, Andaman & Nicobar Islands-Rs. 821.88 crore.

(b) Distribution of relief on ground is the responsibility of the State/UT Governments which are required to keep proper account. The State are also required to submit a monthly statement of expenditure details to the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Accountants General also scrutinize the accounts of the respective States.

(c) For the Tsunami disaster no external assistance for immediate relief and response has been accepted by the Government because of the availability of resources within the country.

(d) It is proposed to enact a law on Disaster Management to provide for the requisite institutional mechanism and powers for undertaking the prevention and mitigation measures as also mechanism for ensuring preparedness, capacity building and coordinating response for various kinds of disasters. The central legislation *inter alia* provides for the constitution of a National Disaster Management Authority.

Inter-State crimes

1616. SHRITTV. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the dacoity and murder by Inter-State gangs are on the increase in the country;

(b) whether Government are aware of the limitations of the State Governments in bringing such culprits to book; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to curb such Inter-State crimes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) to (c) As per the information available with the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the number of cases of dacoity and murder reported in the country during the years 2001 to 2003 were as follows:

Sl.No.		2001	2002	2003
1.	Dacoity	6154	6101	5303
2.	Murder	36202	35290	32716

The incidents of dacoity and murder have declined during the year 2003 compared with previous years 2001 and 2002. Specific information regarding dacoity and murder by Inter-State Gangs is not maintained centrally.